



Media Release

June 25, 2013

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Government Finance Officers Association Awards the Town of Bluffton's Finance Department
Its Highest Honors for the Town's Budget and Annual Report
Both Reports Judged On Transparent, Clear and Easy-To-Understand Reporting

The professional association of state and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), recently awarded the Town of Bluffton's Finance Department two awards for its 2012 Budget and its 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

For the fifth year in a row, Bluffton's Finance Department was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

This is also the second consecutive year GFOA has awarded the Town's Finance Department the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award; its highest form of recognition for a municipal budget.

"We are accountable to every Bluffton resident and these documents give a detailed blueprint of where and when the Town's money is spent for what project," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "We can track every project to the penny and that type of accountability is essential in the Town's relationship with its residents.

"To be honored with these two awards is an exceptional achievement for Bluffton," Mayor Sulka said.

Sulka said within the 270 cities and towns in South Carolina, about 30 received the same award for Financial Reporting and 10 towns and cities, including Bluffton, received the award for their budgets.

Shirley Freeman, Director of Finance for the Town of Bluffton, said these reports make the Town accountable to its residents, its bond holders and the organizations which issue the Town grants, which includes the federal government.

“Our Town’s Municipal Budget and the Town’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report provide a clear window of where our money is scheduled to be spent and how the money was spent,” Freeman said. “The finance department has to meet more than 100-page criteria for both awards; however these honors translate to substantial cost-savings. These awards carry weight with bond rating agencies and this means the Town can continue to borrow money at a lower cost.”

About the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA):

The GFOA is the professional association of state/provincial and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, and has served the public finance profession since 1906. GFOA members are dedicated to the sound management of government financial resources.

With 17,800 members, the GFOA has experienced a steady growth in the past 10 years, adding more than 5,000 finance professionals to its organization. The GFOA continues to provide leadership to the government finance profession through research, education, and recommended practices.



Vicki Isaacs, Kathy Glover, Shirley Freeman (Director), Trisha Greathouse, Courtney Kelly